

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-20, 22-32, 40 and 42-55 are presently active in this case. Claims 1, 21 and 41 cancelled and Claims 2, 13, 17, 19, 20, 22, 33, 37, 39, 40, 42 and 47 amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Navarre et al.

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Nguyen for the March 30, 2004 personal interview at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. During the interview, Applicants presented amendments and arguments substantially as indicated in this response. While no formal agreement was reached, Examiner Nguyen indicated that the amendments contained herein would overcome the outstanding rejection based on the Navarre reference.

Turning now to the merits, in order to expedite issuance of a patent in this case, Applicants have amended Claims 2, 22 and 40 to each recite the feature of receiving a user identifier from a user, determining whether a document profile exists for the user identifier received, and sending the user a document manager interface screen based on the determination of whether a document profile exists. Thus, each of the Applicants independent claims now includes the features of determination of a document profile associated with a user identifier and sending an interface screen based on this determination. As discussed in the March 30, 2004 interview, this feature provides an improved interface between the user and a plurality of ASPs. Specifically, where a determination reveals that a document profile does exist for a user, the interface screen can include a menu that is customized for the particular user. Where no document profile exists for a user, the interface

screen can include a generic document type menu for the user to chose from and create a document profile for future use.

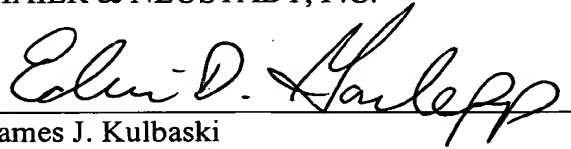
In contrast, the cited reference to Navarre et al. discloses a system and method for generating a request from a client application to a plurality of server applications. Specifically, as shown in Figure 2 of Navarre et al., the request from a client application 210 is routed through a gateway 220 before being sent to server applications 230, 240 and 250. The gateway application 220 identifies a set of data access transactions corresponding to the request from the client application 210. These transactions are then sent to the plurality of servers which perform the requested transaction and provide a response back to the gateway. The gateway then consolidates the response into a common data structure and sends the consolidated response back to the client application 210.

Thus, as discussed in the March 30, 2003 interview, the Navarre et al. reference does not disclose determining whether a document profile is associated with the user identifier sent from the client application. As such, this reference does not provide the ability to select an interface that is either customized for the user or directed to obtaining future customization for the user as described above. In this regard, Applicants note that while Navarre et al. discloses a user profile data base, the user profile in this data base is utilized for security and fee purposes only. As acknowledged by the Examiner in the March 30th interview, the Navarre et al. reference simply does disclose determining whether a document profile is associated with the user identifier and sending an interface screen based on this determination as now recited in independent Claims 2, 22 and 40. Thus, these independent claims patentably define over Navarre et al. Moreover, as Claims 3-20, 23-39 and 42-55 depend from independent Claims 2, 22 and 40 respectively, these dependent claims also patentably define over the cited reference to Navarre et al.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Registration No. 34,648
Edwin D. Garlepp
Registration No. 45,330

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

JJK:EDG:tdm

I:\ATTY\EDG\5244\202308US\202308AM 2.12.04OA.DOC